

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for initiating data capture in a digital camera, the method comprising:
 - 2 activating a text-recognition mode in the digital camera;
 - acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be recognized;
 - 4 selecting a first target scene at which to aim the digital camera;
 - capturing a first digital image of the first target scene;
 - 6 converting the first digital image to a first text file; and
 - searching the first text file for the text pattern.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 saving a digital representation of the first target scene, when the text
 - pattern is recognized.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the digital representation comprises the first text
 - 2 file.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the digital representation comprises a digital
 - 2 image.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting a first target scene at which to aim the
 - 2 digital camera, capturing a first digital image of the first target scene, converting
 - the first digital image to a first text file, searching the first text file for the text
 - 4 pattern, and saving a digital representation of the first target scene, when the text

pattern is recognized, are repeated until a command to terminate the text-
6 recognition mode is received.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2 receiving a continue command in the digital camera after selecting a
first target scene at which to aim the digital camera and prior to capturing a
4 first digital image of the first target scene.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein saving a digital representation of the first target
2 scene is performed for each subsequent target scene for which the text pattern is
recognized and the first text file associated with the current target scene differs
4 from the first text file associated with the previous target scene for which a digital
representation was saved.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be
2 recognized comprises scrolling within a displayed list of alphanumeric characters
and selecting alphanumeric characters from the displayed list that specify the text
4 pattern.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be
2 recognized comprises the use of speech recognition.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be
2 recognized comprises retrieving a previously saved text pattern.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 signaling when the text pattern is recognized.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 receiving a confirmation command in the digital camera;
 capturing a second digital image of a second target scene; and
4 saving a digital representation of the second target scene.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the digital representation comprises a text file.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the digital representation comprises a digital
2 image.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 capturing a second digital image of a second target scene after a
 predetermined delay; and
4 saving a digital representation of the second target scene

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the digital representation comprises a text file.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the digital representation comprises a digital
2 image.

18. A digital camera, comprising:

- 2 an optical system;
- an imaging device for receiving from the optical system an optical
- 4 image of a target scene to be photographed and converting the received optical image to a digital image;
- 6 a memory for storing the digital image;
- an optical character recognition module for converting the digital
- 8 image to a text file;
- a device for acquiring a text pattern to be searched within the text file;
- 10 and
- a controller for determining when the text pattern is recognized.

19. The digital camera of claim 18, further comprising:

- 2 an audible tone generator for signaling when the text pattern is recognized.

20. The digital camera of claim 18, further comprising:

- 2 an image compression module for producing a compressed digital image from the digital image.

21. A digital camera, comprising:

- 2 means for collecting an optical image;
- means for converting the optical image to a digital image;
- 4 means for storing the digital image;
- means for converting the digital image to a text file; and

6 means for acquiring in the digital camera a text pattern to be searched
within the text file.

22. The digital camera of claim 21, further comprising:

2 means for saving the text file when the text pattern is recognized.

23. The digital camera of claim 21, further comprising:

2 means for compressing the digital image to produce a compressed
digital image;

4 means for saving the compressed digital image when the text pattern is
recognized.

24. The digital camera of claim 21, further comprising:

2 means for signaling when the text pattern is recognized.